

# Sample Beliefs Statements

## EXAMPLE 1

To implement the school counseling program at XYZ High School, the counselors are committed to the following.

We believe:

- ◆ All students have the right to be served by the school counseling program.
- ◆ The school counseling program shall be evaluated on stated goals and related student competencies.
- ◆ The school counseling program should be consistent with expected developmental stages of learning.
- ◆ School counseling program activities shall be planned and coordinated by the counseling staff.
- ◆ The school counseling program shall be managed by state-certified counselors.
- ◆ All students:
  - should have access to a school counselor to discuss personal concerns
  - should have access to information about occupational and educational planning
  - have the right to assistance in identifying their needs in the personal/social domain
  - should have the opportunity to make choices within the constraints of the educational system
- ◆ The student and parent(s) are responsible for monitoring the student's educational progress with the assistance of a professional school counselor.
- ◆ An ongoing program of counselor competency training/retraining is necessary to maintain a quality school counseling program.
- ◆ The professional mandates and guidelines proposed by the national and state school counselor association shall continue to set standards for the school counseling program.

## EXAMPLE 2

**The school counselors believe:**

- ◆ all students have dignity and worth.
- ◆ all students have the right to participate in the school counseling program.
- ◆ all students' ethnic, cultural and racial differences and special needs are considered in the planning and implementation of the school counseling program.
- ◆ all students K-12 shall have access to a full-time, state-certified master's-degree-level counselor.

**And that the school counseling program:**

- ◆ be based on specified goals and developmental student competencies.
- ◆ be planned and coordinated with other representatives of the school and community.
- ◆ utilize the many combined resources of the community.
- ◆ be evaluated on specified goals and agreed-upon student competencies.

**And that all counselors:**

- ◆ abide by the professional ethics of guidance and counseling as advocated by the American School Counselor Association.
- ◆ participate in competency renewal program essential to maintain a quality guidance program.

## Sample Philosophy Statement

The XYZ School District adheres to the philosophy that the school counseling program is an essential and integral part of the overall education process. The comprehensive program is built on the assumption that certain educational, career and personal objectives are attainable when school counseling for all students is provided. This implementation acknowledges that school counseling is no longer a service to be offered by one person but a program coordinated with other educators incorporating a comprehensive curriculum. Growth and learning are developmental; therefore, school counseling must be developmental and sequential.

The XYZ Developmental School Counseling Program, when fully implemented will provide:

- ◆ A school counseling program that reaches the needs of 100 percent of the student population.
- ◆ A programmatic approach to school counseling services/programs.
- ◆ Accountability for school counseling programs.
- ◆ Counselors who devote full time to the program's implementation and who work toward the elimination of inappropriate school counseling tasks.
- ◆ Identification and achievement of student competencies and outcomes through the school counseling program.



## Sample Mission Statements

### EXAMPLE 1

The mission of the XYZ Public Schools Counseling Program is to maximize the potential of all students, helping them to become responsible members of society.

### EXAMPLE 2

The mission of the XYZ School District School Counseling Program is to enable all students regardless of individual differences to acquire the educational, occupational and social competencies necessary to function and contribute in a changing society.

### EXAMPLE 3

The school counseling program has been developed to ensure all students acquire competencies needed in designing an individualized educational program, in developing a process for life/career planning that realistically matches each student's aptitudes and interests, and in demonstrating personal/social skills needed to relate to self and others.

### EXAMPLE 4

The mission of school counseling is to ensure that each person regardless of race, sex, religion, economic condition, mental or physical handicaps or geographic location will acquire the competencies for constructive participation in society.

### EXAMPLE 5

Our mission as school counselors is to provide a comprehensive guidance program that will assist all students in acquiring the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to become effective students, responsible citizens, productive workers and lifelong learners. The Comprehensive Student Services Program is an integral part of the school's total program with a commitment to individual uniqueness, an understanding of

multicultural diversity and the maximum development of human potential. The program addresses the personal/social, educational and career needs of all students. The program's ultimate goal is for students to graduate with the competencies necessary to be able to make self-directed, realistic and responsible decisions and to be successful contributors to society.

### EXAMPLE 6

The School Counseling and Guidance Framework is designed to promote the formation of productive and responsible citizens by ensuring the academic, career and personal/social development of all students.

### EXAMPLE 7

The mission of the ABC School District Counseling Department is to provide a structured program of services to all students and the school community. As student advocates, we recognize the uniqueness and personal worth of each child. Our K-12 Developmental Counseling Program focuses on each student's potential for growth within the context of his or her individual, family, multicultural and human perspective.

### EXAMPLE 8

This statement of purpose articulates the intent of the school counseling program by specifying the desired long-range (five to 10 years) outcomes for all students. It shows linkage with the statement of purpose or mission of the school administrations and the Board of Education. The mission of the school counseling program is to enable all students, regardless of individual differences, to acquire the self-knowledge, educational, occupational and career development competencies necessary to function and contribute in a changing society.